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A Force Management Update



A Quarterly Newsletter of the Army Force Management School

15 April 2005

FA 50 TRAINING

The Army Force Management School (AFMS) will conduct the FY 2005 Functional Area (FA) 50 Qualification Course from 8 August to 21 October 2005. This course is designed for officers (CPT - LTC) and their civilian counterparts assigned to force management and force integration positions who have completed the four-week Army Force Management Course (modules I thru III). Currently, there are 17 students (AC: 11, USAR: 1, ARNG: 2, DAC: 3) identified for attendance. Training will be conducted at AFMS, Building 247, Fort Belvoir, Virginia (Humphreys Hall).

This course focuses the student on current force management policies, procedures, processes and systems and prepares them to perform force management functions at all levels throughout the Army. The program of instruction is designed for 03 - 05 military officers who have been designated as FA 50, and their civilian counterparts in CP26, and who will be involved in the entire spectrum of force management, force integration, requirements generation, and materiel acquisition processes, and in the planning, programming, budgeting and execution system at Army Major Commands (MACOMs) or at Headquarters, Department of the Army. Instruction is accomplished by using lecture conferences, guided discussions, case studies, workshops, practical exercises, seminars, guest speakers, evaluations and critiques.

Training addresses the force management processes from the determination of force requirements, the development of solutions to these requirements (doctrinal, material, etc.), and the allocation of resources to accomplish Army functions and missions. The course includes instruction and practical exercises in strategic guidance, combat development, materiel development and force development processes, as well as the planning, programming and budgeting of resources. Instruction includes numerous presentations from members of the Army Staff (ARSTAF) and MACOMs involved with the many facets of force management as well as a visit to Congress and a trip to TRADOC Futures Center, HQ JFCOM, and CASCOM. The ARSTAF proponent is G-8.

-- Jim Waters

The National Defense Strategy of The United States of America

The Department of Defense has a relatively new document to guide its national security planning entitled The National Defense Strategy of The United States of America. The current edition was released in March 2005. Much of this twenty-page strategy is a restatement of the 2001 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) Report. It reiterates the QDR defense goals of assure allies and friends, dissuade potential adversaries, deter aggression and coercion, and defeat adversaries. It repeats the QDR risk parameters of operational risk, future challenges risk, force management risk, and institutional risk. The QDR 1-4-2-1 force-sizing construct – defend the homeland, deter forward in four critical regions, swiftly defeat adversaries in two overlapping major combat operations (MCOs), and preserving for the President the ability to call for a decisive win in one of the overlapping MCOs – is revisited. And the capabilities-based approach to defense strategy – how we might be challenged as opposed to who the adversary might be – set forth in the QDR is also repeated. There is, however, on page 9 of the National Defense Strategy a significant new construct with regard to the implementation of the new strategy identified as an **active, layered defense**. Active defense is described as the United States proactively seizing the strategic initiative and eliminating the most significant direct threats to its security as far forward as possible and before they are fully developed. In consonance with the adage “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure”, the strategy announces that prevention is the vital element of its active, layered defense and categorizes preventive actions as security cooperation, forward deterrence, humanitarian assistance, peace operations, and military operations. The strategy provides scenarios where military operations might be the appropriate preventive action in an active, layered defense. Scenario examples justifying military operations include precluding the initiation of armed conflict, to provide support to a friendly government under attack, to reestablish an overthrown friendly government, to neutralize weapons of mass destruction in terrorist hands, or to attack direct threats to the United States, its friends, or other interests. Finally, the strategy identifies two other critical components of the active, layered defense – the involvement and cooperation of international partners and the immediate security of the United States, its people, and critical infrastructure.

-- John Walsh

Army Knowledge Online Newsletter, Issue #2

March 2005 [[newsletter archive](#)]

AKO Updates & New Features

The AKO Team is focused on increasing the speed of the site and on adding new services for the AKO community. Visit the [AKO Updates page](#) for a complete list of new & upcoming features, and continue reading for highlights from the month of March:

*** New & Improved AKO Lite (*available now*)**

The new & improved AKO Lite is now available! Weighing in at under 20k, AKO Lite is designed to provide you with a dramatic increase in speed over dial-up or satellite. AKO Lite gives you quick access to email, files, announcements, and most-popular pages; all other features are only a click away in full AKO.

To access AKO Lite, visit [AKO](#) and click on "Login to AKO Lite."

*** Announcing the AKO iPod Giveaway!**

We are rapidly approaching AKO's 300 millionth login, and to celebrate we will be giving away an [iPod Shuffle](#). To win, start logging in now! To learn more, visit [Inside AKO](#).

*** AKO Syndicated News (*available now*)**

AKO Syndicated News has been in preview for the past few weeks ([AKO News Center](#)) and is now available to all AKO users. Any AKO user can create a customized news channel and add news stories from fifty topics. Learn all about it in the [AKO News Channel How To Guide](#).

*** Family Member Accounts & FRG Support (*available now*)**

Did you know that family members can be sponsored for AKO accounts? AKO already has over 100,000 family member accounts, and we encourage every family member to take advantage of all that AKO has to offer. When your family members sign up for AKO accounts, they automatically receive:

- secure email access with 50 MB storage
- secure IM & Chat
- secure online storage for files & photos (50 MB)
- and more - for details, take a look at the [AKO family member tutorial](#)

Family Readiness Group participants & leaders - learn how to use AKO to set up an online FRG! Using standard AKO features, you can publicize events on an online calendar, sponsor discussions, and email all members of the FRG. For an example of an FRG on AKO, check out the [52nd Signal Battalion FRG](#). To create an online FRG today, download the [Virtual Team Guide](#).

*** AKO in the News**

See what the press has been reporting about AKO:

- March 2005 - *Wired Magazine* - [We Need Spy Blogs: An Army officer calls for better information gathering](#)
- March 4, 2005 - *Soldiers Online* - [AKO Supports Army Library Program](#)
- March 21, 2005 - *Federal Computer Week* - [Fong: He doesn't know 'quit': Army official puts off retirement twice to better Army's portal](#)
- [AKO Press Archive](#) - AKO history & headlines from 1999-present

*** Knowledge Networks & Online Communities (*available now*)**

AKO supports Knowledge Networks, Communities of Practice, Communities of Interest, and Virtual Teams. Create a secure area to discuss common interests with other AKO members, design a virtual workspace where your working group can collaborate, or build your organization's intranet on AKO. Remember - it's fast, it's free, and it's available around the world to any AKO user.

To see how an Army officer uses Virtual Teams on AKO, check out the news article, [We Need Spy Blogs](#). To create a collaborative workspace now, download the [Virtual Team Guide](#).

*** AKO Offers Army-Wide Announcements (*available now*)**

Does your organization need to communicate with the entire Army? Featuring your announcement on the homepage of AKO will allow you to reach nearly 500,000 users in one week! Just send the announcement (300-character limit), URL (example: www.us.army.mil), and link text (example: AKO) to ako.announcements@us.army.mil.

* Other Notes

- All AKO users will receive the April AKO Newsletter. At that point, an "opt-out" process will be provided for users who do not wish to continue receiving the monthly newsletter.
- AKO is a monitored DoD website. All users are expected to behave in a professional manner on AKO, and full account holders are responsible for the online behavior of the accounts they sponsor. Inappropriate behavior on AKO may result in sanctions.

The AKO Team

AFM Enhancements

General

New sort capability (can now sort up to three columns).
Dropped ADRS and TCP Books.
Added filter criteria to excel spreadsheets.
Definitions available when filter headings are moused-over.
Queries run faster.
Removed RQENL, RQOFF, RQWO, AUENL, AUOFF, AUWO columns from the units tabs (data still available on the units pop-up page).
Allow user to filter out J-out units (displays only units that are active for the date).

Equipment

Combined claimant and donor tabs under the Equipment Book.
The equipment rating has been changed from the AR 220-1 methodology. It now includes all ERC in the calculation and is based on authorizations instead of requirements. For further information on the algorithm, please view EQUIP_RATING and LIN_ERATE in the Data Dictionary.
Under equipment tab, added SUPPLY_CLASS (2, 5, 7, 8), AWCF_COST, and LIN_ERATE.
Removed S3 fix from the equipment tab.
Can change aggregation level within the Equipment Book (i.e., can change from division to brigade without reinitiating the query).
Added MACOM and Brigade aggregation levels to the Equipment Book.
Added AWCF_COST and SUPPLY_CLASS (2, 5, 7, 8) under the Equipment Book.
Changed Assets Tab summary to reflect Required, Authorized, On-Hand, and OH_NO_SUBS instead of rating information on the Equipment Book.
Added summary table to the equipment tabs.

Joe Albert

Taken from the latest CALL newsletter

Recent Terminology Changes: There are several terminology changes that are now official. We request everyone's help in spreading the word so we can all communicate more effectively.

- “The Army’s modular force” has replaced the term “modularity.”
- The term “unit of action (UA)” is obsolete. The heavy, infantry, and Stryker brigades are now referred to as brigade combat teams (BCTs), i.e. heavy BCT. Fires, aviation, maneuver enhancement, sustainment, and battlefield surveillance brigades are referred to collectively as support brigades.
- Battlefield surveillance brigade (BfSB) replaces the reconnaissance, surveillance, and target acquisition brigade (RSTA).

Jon W. Marker